

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

die of her wedding gifts, and is the ultimate stake laid on the ganuBg table. Embroidery on silk or on cotton is a contemporary art which can be traced back to the sixteenth-century Chinese who taught the Anoamltes. Originally embroidery was used only as temple decoration, but in recent years it has served to brighten the sombre interiors of Anoaxnite homes.

craftsmanship makes the work of the Annamite artisan successful than that of his artist colleague. Working in wood, either in sculpture, lacquer, or incrustation, brings out his best cpaities—the patient, faithful, and delicate execution of detail. Artisans are into a Hnd of guild system whose tangible expression is by their grouping together in certain streets of every town. to the Western conception of the artist working independently of WB and following his own inspiration, he is in Annam the servitor of Ms work and his colleagues. Their life in common stan-perpetuates certain models and methods which have in madMne-like amfoirnity* The peculiar history of Annamite has warped its development. Any worker showing con-aroused the covetous interest of the Court, who requisi-his services for die palace. Unfortunately this often meant the a line of work for which he was not fitted, at he in be disoiissed without compensation. Such a any progress in the arts. Many potentially up profession or hired a salesman to put on s for protection*

IfEDIOKE

m empirical and based upon no knowledge

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 lest the soul of the deceased become male-
 m as the are regarded as purveyors
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